

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15028 01 OF 02 200655Z

21/64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 FPC-01

INT-05 OES-05 SAM-01 STR-04 NEA-10 /135 W

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R 181825Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5768

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15028

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR DATE TIME GROUP AND FILE TIME

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENERG, XG, UK

SUBJECT: U.K. PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15028 01 OF 02 200655Z

CHICAGO SPEECH

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS TREASURY AND FRB

SUMMARY: THE EDITORIAL RESPONSE BY THE U.K. PRESS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CHICAGO SPEECH HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. WHILE MOST LEAD STORIES WERE FACTUAL PRESENTATIONS, EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAILED THE SPIRIT OF THE PROPOSALS, ESPECIALLY THE CALL FOR CONSUMER UNITY, AND URGED BRITISH SUPPORT. A SINGLE BUT IMPORTANT EXCEPTION WAS A SATURDAY FINANCIAL TIMES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE WHICH CITES WHITEHALL'S REACTION AS "COOL." END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE EDITORIAL EXCERPTS FROM THE LONDON PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CHICAGO SPEECH. WHILE THE TOTAL EDITORIALS WERE NOT IN ALL CASES DEVOTED SOLELY TO THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS, OFTEN BEING INCLUDED IN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE NOVEMBER 12 U.K. BUDGET OR STATEMENT OF U.K. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THE PRESS REACTION WAS OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. (NOTE: FOR OFFICIAL U.K. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE SEE LONDON 15017.) AS WELL AS THE EDITORIAL RESPONSE PRESENTED BELOW, ALL OF THE MAJOR UK PRESS CARRIED FRONT PAGE FACTUAL COVERAGE OF THE SPEECH.

2. LONDON TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16: "DR. KISSINGER'S SPEECH IS IN THE BEST TRADITION OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND VISION AND DESERVES TO RANK WITH OTHER EXAMPLES SUCH AS THE MARSHALL PLAN. IT (THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED) SHOULD BE GIVEN A QUICK AND GENEROUS RESPONSE... FAILURE TO MEET (THE CHALLENGE OF AN ALLIANCE) COULD BRING DISASTER AS GREAT AS WAR, OR EVEN WAR ITSELF.

3. IN EDITORIAL IN THE SUNDAY TIMES (NOVEMBER 17) ENTITLED "VISION FOR US ALL," THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE IDEAS OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY AS WELL AS THE PROGRAM FOR RECYCLING OIL PRODUCERS' SURPLUSES. THE EDITORIAL URGED THE UK GOVERNMENT TO GIVE AN IMMEDIATE WARM RESPONSE TO THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS. FURTHER STATING THAT ANY CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE, AS SUGGESTED BY THE FRENCH, WOULD BE POINTLESS WITHOUT THE ATTAINMENT OF INITIAL UNDERSTANDINGS AMONG THE CONSUMER NATIONS. IN THE CLOSING

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15028 01 OF 02 200655Z

PARAGRAPH WHICH PRAISED THE U.S. INITIATIVE AND RECOGNIZED THAT SHOULD ANOTHER EMBARGO EMERGE, UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE U.S. WOULD STAND TO SUFFER THE MOST, THERE WAS A

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15028 02 OF 02 200734Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 15028

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TDATE TIME GROUP AND FILE TIME

STRONG CALL FOR CONSUMER SOLIDARITY: "A CAPACITY TO RECOGNIZE ONE'S FRIENDS IS NOT MERELY MAGNANIMOUS; IT IS A NECESSARY CONDITION OF SURVIVAL."

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15028 02 OF 02 200734Z

4. THE MAIN EDITORIAL IN THE SUNDAY OBSERVER WAS PRINCIPALLY FOCUSED ON CHANCELLOR HEALEY'S NOVEMBER 12 BUDGET AND THE CURRENT U.K. ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE LEAD-IN, HOWEVER, WAS AS FOLLOWS: "NOTHING MR. HEALEY DID (OR COULD HAVE DONE) IN HIS BUDGET LAST WEEK WILL SAVE THIS COUNTRY FROM SLUMP AND HEAVY UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1975, UNLESS THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES RESPOND SWIFTLY TO DR. KISSINGER'S CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO ECONOMISE ON OIL AND TO RECYCLE THE VAST SUMS OF ARAB OIL MONEY ON DEPOSIT IN THE WEST."

5. THE FINANCIAL TIMES ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, RAN A LENGTHY EDITORIAL ON THE "UGLY FACTS" FACING THE BRITISH ECONOMY. THERE WAS SUBDUED PRAISE FOR HEALEY'S BUDGET BUT MOREOVER, A GENERAL SENSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT THAT MANY WORLD LEADERS HAD ATTAINED A DEGREE OF REALISM, AND ARE NOW READY TO ACCEPT THE NEED FOR "INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO AVERT A WORLD SLUMP AND THE DISRUPTION OF TRADE AND FINANCE: DR. HENRY KISSINGER'S SPEECH IN CHICAGO MARKED A MAJOR ADVANCE IN THE U.S. POSITION ON THE FINANCIAL THREAT..."

6. IN SATURDAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES, SAMUEL BRITTAN'S FRONT PAGE STORY ENTITLED "COOL REACTION IN U.K. TO \$25 BILLION KISSINGER OIL PLAN" CITED WHITEHALL'S RESPONSE AS "LIMITED TO SAYING THAT THEY LOOK FORWARD TO STEADYING THE DETAILS AND THAT THERE WERE MANY POINTS IN COMMON WITH BRITISH IDEAS." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR THE INITIAL COOLNESS: FIRST, THE BRITISH ARE UNSYMPATHETIC TO DR. KISSINGER'S IDEA OF A CONSUMER CARTEL TO BREAK THE CARTEL OF THE OPEC OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES; SECOND, THE U.K. IS BACKING THE WITTEVEEN II PROPOSALS FOR CHANNELING FUNDS THROUGH THE IMF, RATHER THAN DIRECT GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT. THE ARTICLE ALSO CITED CHANCELLOR HEALEY AS FEARFUL THAT A CONSUMERS' CARTEL WOULD BE MET BY AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION IN OIL PRODUCTION PLUS A FOREIGN OFFICE SUSPICION OF ANYTHING WHICH WOULD UNNECESSARILY OFFEND ARAB SUSCEPTIBILITIES. SPIERS

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